

St Mary's Newsletter

Autumn Term – Friday 17th December 2021

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Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk

Attendance Weekly - 96.6%

Attendance Year - 96.2%

Let Your Light Shine... as You Grow Matthew 5: 15-16

Friendship
Trust

Truthfulness
Compassion

Perseverance
Respect

Dear parents, carers and friends of the school,

After another extremely busy term, I would like to start this final newsletter of this term by saying a huge thank you to every member of the St Mary's community. Once again, we have managed to navigate our way through a school term full of intricate and complex challenges brought by the continuation of the COVID pandemic, but we have done so together and as a community—something that I and my staff are extremely proud of. I would particularly like to thank the staff at St Mary's for ensuring that they have kept their children safe, supported their wellbeing, whilst ensuring that they continue to experience lots of new and exciting learning and curriculum opportunities.

Thank you all for your continued support of our wonderful school and its wonderful pupils and staff.

Nativities Galore!



A huge well done to all of the children and staff involved in this year's Nativity Programme. After a Dress Rehearsal Performance to the rest of the school on Tuesday afternoon, on Wednesday we were treated to a wonderfully mature performance by all of our Key Stage 1 pupils in St Mary's Church, with a performance at 11am and another performance at 5pm. I must say that everyone that I have subsequently spoken with was incredibly impressed by how well all of the children sang, danced and acted. I would like to say a special thanks to the whole of the Early Years and Key Stage 1 staff, lead by Mrs Jeewan, who have put a lot of hard work and effort into these performances – it was most definitely worth it!

I would also like to thank all the parents, carers and friends of the school who turned up to come and watch and support their children – your support is always greatly appreciated! It was so wonderful that we managed to get both of our Nativity performances in this year, especially as so many school's have had to cancel their performances this year due to extremely high COVID outbreaks in so many schools. It was also especially important for our Year 2 pupils, as this will be their final Nativity Performance at St Mary's.

Christmas Lunch Day:

Yesterday, St Mary's held its annual Christmas Lunch Day in the school hall. I am pleased to say that it went really well and was superbly organised by Rose Dye (our Head of Midday) and Riina Driscoll (our Catering Manager), along with their hard-working team of kitchen and midday staff. As is tradition here at St Mary's, Teachers, Teaching Assistants and Learning Support Assistants helped serve the children their lunches whilst our pupils sat patiently at their tables listening to some fun Christmas music and pulling their crackers. The food was absolutely delicious and it was a memorable and festive occasion!



Kindness Posters:



We hope you are doing well with your kindness calendar. Remember, if they achieve any of the challenges, please can I ask parents/carers to sign next to the number. Remember: if any child manages to complete all 25 then I will get them a small but special prize and a Headteacher's certificate and sticker in January. Please also remember to share these kind acts with us in January via photos and a quick explanation of what they've been up to. Good luck everyone!

Please do have a lovely Christmas break and a well-deserved rest.

Remember that school will re-open for pupils on **Wednesday 5th January at 8.30am.**

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

Mr C. D. Jarman

Headteacher at St Mary's



Christmas Reverse Advent Calendar

Thank you to everyone who took part in our Reverse Advent Calendar this year and made donations for Uttlesford Foodbank.

All of the donations are really appreciated.



The Great Unusual Find!



On Tuesday, Year five had Forest School as a reward and we absolutely loved it! During the first half of forest school, Amelia and Anna (us) went down to the mud kitchen which KS1 created for digging. Some friends were already at the mud kitchen digging so we decided to help. We began to dig together. The hole got to about 2 feet deep!

Suddenly, Amelia saw something white. We started to dig it out and Anna picked it up. We were all stunned and did not know what it was. Amelia said that we should go and tell Mrs McInnes, our teacher. We went over to Mrs McInnes and she said that it looked like a smoking



pipe and it could be valuable.

That night, Amelia researched the pipe and found that it could be from the 1700s! William, our friend, took it home and cleaned it with his special kit that uses vibrations for deep cleans. Anna and Amelia may even take it to the local museum.

That's how we found the great and wonderful find!

Amelia, Anna and Will , Year 5

KEY STAGE ONE NATIVITY AT ST MARY'S CHURCH



Christmas dinner



#16 Days - Action Against Domestic Abuse Campaign

16 DAYS
OF ACTION AGAINST
DOMESTIC ABUSE

On the 25th November Public Health England started a campaign for 16 days of action against Domestic Abuse. Spangles Family Hub, Uttlesford District have a wealth of information on their Facebook page, below is an extract from their page with additional signposting to some local and national support services.

Domestic abuse is an incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, threatening or violent behaviour.

Domestic abuse can have devastating effects on children both physically and emotionally. Every child has the right to feel safe in their own home.

If you are experiencing domestic abuse, or are concerned for a family member or friend, there are many different people who can support you. Your Healthy Family Team (Health Visitor, School Nurse, and Healthy Family Support Workers) will also be able to support you and your children if you are suffering from domestic abuse. You can contact your Healthy Family Team on: 0300 247 0122

All of your local family hubs will have a safe space called 'The Lotus Hub' where you and your children can go if needed so please don't suffer in silence.

If you or your child are frightened or at risk of imminent harm call **999**, the police will help you.

Essex Compass is a partnership of Domestic Abuse services in Essex. Their helpline number is 0330 333 7444 or visit www.essexcompass.org.uk

The National Domestic Abuse Helpline is 0808 2000 247.

The National Centre for Domestic Violence (NDVC) provides free, fast legal support to help individuals get injunctions from County Court.

Tel 0800 970 2070 or TEXT NCDV to 60777 and they will call you back.

Galop is a national charity supporting LGBT+ about domestic abuse. Their contact number is 0800 999 5428 or visit www.galop.org.uk #16days

Mrs Jo Crocker, Welfare & Support Officer

Diary Dates



Monday 20th Dec - 3rd Jan	-	Christmas Holidays
Tuesday 4th January 2022	-	INSET Non Pupil Day
Wednesday 5th January	-	First day of Spring Term - Pupils Return
Monday 10th January	-	After School Clubs start
Friday 14th January	-	Year 4 Swimming starts
Thursday 20th January	-	Special CENSUS Dinner Menu
1st-28th February	-	LGBT History Month
Mon 14th Fri 18th February	-	Half-term
Friday 1st April	-	INSET Non Pupil Day
Mon 4th - Mon 18th April	-	Easter Holidays